

FOREIGN CLAIMS SETTLEMENT COMMISSION
OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20579

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAIM OF

HELEN WOODMAN HARRIS

Claim No. CU -3257

Decision No. CU-
1319

Under the International Claims Settlement
Act of 1949, as amended

Counsel for claimant: Sowers, Herrick & Black
by: James H. Black, Esq.

PROPOSED DECISION

This claim against the Government of Cuba, under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of \$1,000.00 was presented by HELEN WOODMAN HARRIS, and is based on her interest in a bond issued by the Cuba Railroad Company. Claimant has been a national of the United States since her birth.

Under Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949 [78 Stat. 1110 (1964), 22 U.S.C. §§1643-1643k (1964), as amended, 79 Stat. 988 (1965)], the Commission is given jurisdiction over claims of nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba. Section 503(a) of the Act provides that the Commission shall receive and determine in accordance with applicable substantive law, including international law, the amount and validity of claims by nationals of the United States against the Government of Cuba arising since January 1, 1959 for

losses resulting from the nationalization, expropriation, intervention or other taking of, or special measures directed against, property including any rights or interests therein owned wholly or partially, directly or indirectly at the time by nationals of the United States.

Section 502(3) of the Act provides:

The term 'property' means any property, right, or interest including any leasehold interest, and debts owed by the Government of Cuba or by enterprises which have been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government

of Cuba and debts which are a charge on property which has been nationalized, expropriated, intervened, or taken by the Government of Cuba.

On the basis of evidence of record, the Commission finds that the bond in question was bequeathed to claimant by her aunt, Flora B. Woodman, who died testate on September 15, 1961. Decedent had been a national of the United States since her birth, and had owned the subject bond prior to October 13, 1960. That bond, in the original face amount of \$1,000.00, was issued by the Cuba Railroad Company and known as "Improvement and Equipment Gold Bond, 4%, due June 30, 1970" issued under an Indenture of July 1, 1910, and Supplemental Indentures dated July 1, 1952 and December 1, 1959, with Chemical Bank New York Trust Company as Successor Trustee. The bond in question is No. M 904.

The Cuba Railroad Company, organized in the State of New Jersey, was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Consolidated Railroads of Cuba, a Cuban corporation. By Indenture dated July 1, 1910, and Supplemental Indentures dated July 1, 1952 and December 1, 1959, the Cuba Railroad Company issued Dollar bonds secured by mortgage upon the realty and equipment of the Company. By the Supplemental Indenture of July 1, 1952, the bonds were reissued as 4% bonds, due June 30, 1970. As of 1952, the outstanding principal balance on each \$1,000.00 bond was \$635.00, with interest at 4% per annum to be paid on the principal balance.

The record discloses that the last payment of interest on the bonds was made on November 1, 1958. The properties of the Cuba Railroad Company were listed as nationalized by Cuban Law 890, effective October 13, 1960,

the date of its publication in the Cuban Official Gazette. Claimant's bond, therefore, represents a debt which was a charge upon nationalized property as defined in Section 502(3) of the Act.

The Commission concludes that, as a result of the nationalization of the properties of the Cuba Railroad Company, claimant suffered a loss in connection with her bond within the meaning of Title V of the Act. (See the Claim of Edgar F. Corliss, FCSC Claim No. CU-0785.)

The Commission finds that the total amount of the unpaid indebtedness on claimant's bond was \$684.68, including the principal amount of \$635.00, and the interest due on the bond from November 1, 1958 to October 13, 1960, the date of loss, in the amount of \$49.68.

The Commission has decided that in certification of losses on claims determined pursuant to Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, interest should be included at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of loss to the date of settlement. (See the Claim of Lisle Corporation, FCSC Claim No. CU-0644).

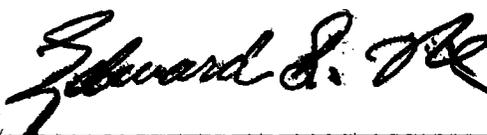
Accordingly, the Commission concludes that the amount of loss sustained by claimant shall be increased by interest thereon at the rate of 6% per annum from October 13, 1960, the date of loss, to the date on which provision is made for settlement thereof.

CERTIFICATION OF LOSS

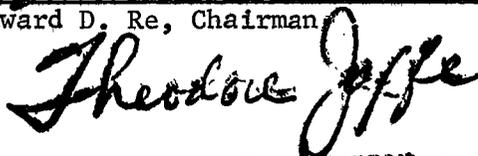
The Commission certifies that HELEN WOODMAN HARRIS suffered a loss, as a result of actions of the Government of Cuba, within the scope of Title V of the International Claims Settlement Act of 1949, as amended, in the amount of Six Hundred Eighty-Four Dollars and Sixty-Eight Cents (\$684.68) with interest thereon at 6% per annum from October 13, 1960 to the date of settlement.

Dated at Washington, D. C.,
(and entered as the Proposed
Decision of the Commission

FEB 21 1968



Edward D. Re, Chairman



Theodore Jaffe, ^{CERTIFICATION} Commissioner

This is a true and correct copy of the decision
of the Commission which was entered as the final
decision on MAY 27 1968



NOTICE TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT: The above listed bond may have been
returned to claimant and no payment should be made unless it is the ~~order of the Commission~~
submitted.

The statute does not provide for the payment of claims against
the Government of Cuba. Provision is only made for the determination
by the Commission of the validity and amounts of such claims.
Section 501 of the statute specifically precludes any authorization
for appropriations for payment of these claims. The Commission is
required to certify its findings to the Secretary of State for
possible use in future negotiations with the Government of Cuba.

NOTICE: Pursuant to the Regulations of the Commission, if no objections
are filed within 15 days after service or receipt of notice of this Pro-
posed Decision, the decision will be entered as the Final Decision of
the Commission upon the expiration of 30 days after such service or re-
ceipt of notice, unless the Commission otherwise orders. (FCSC Reg.,
45 C.F.R. 531.5(e) and (g), as amended, 32 Fed. Reg. 412-13 (1967).)